

G. O. re sale of immovable property for arrears of land tax.

93. MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): With reference to the G. O. issued under date the 31st October 1930, relating to the sale of immovable property for arrears of land tax, will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the said G. O. was passed by Government on their own initiative or on the recommendation made by the Head of the Revenue Department;

(b) the reasons for passing such a measure at this juncture; and

(c) the number of cases in which they had to purchase properties in revenue auction for a nominal sum of ch. 1 in the several taluks of the State during each of the years 1100 up to date (17-4-1106) together with the extent of the land that was sold in each case and the arrears of tax for which each of those plots was sold and purchased by them?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (a) The G.O. was passed on the recommendation made by the Land Revenue Commissioner.

(b) The G. O. was passed with a view to safeguard the interests of Government in the matter of realisation of land revenue.

(c) A statement* furnishing the required particulars is laid on the table.

Perurkadai Primary School for Girls.

94. MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Perurkadai Girls' Primary School building fell down during the rains in 1105;

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, why the building fell down;

(c) whether this building was built by the people and handed over to the department;

(d) the year in which it was handed over;

(e) whether the building in which the school is now (18-4-1106) held has been condemned by the Inspectress of Schools; and

(f) if the answer to part (e) is in the affirmative, why the school has not been shifted to some safe building?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (a) The building of the Perurkadai Primary School for Girls fell down on the 26th Medom 1105.

(b) The building fell down as it was very old and in an unsound condition.

(c) Yes.

(d) The information is not available.

(e) No.

(f) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (e) above.

* *Vide* Appendix XII—pages 355 to 357

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the basis of the information that the building was very old?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The information is based on facts given both by the P. W. D. and the Education Department.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was the opinion given by the P. W. D. before the building fell down or was it after?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Before the building fell down.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, the P. W. D. reported that the building was in an unsound condition before it fell down?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it customary for the P. W. D. to inspect these school buildings?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They do it at the instance of the department or of the Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was the school building at the maintenance of the P. W. Department?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No, it was not.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What was the occasion for the P. W. D. to report about this matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They were asked to report.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Before the building fell down was there any report before Government that it was in an unsound condition?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There was an estimate for repairs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was any repairs effected?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Before that, the building fell down.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the building was thatched in the year 1105?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No, it was not thatched in 1105. It was thatched in 1103 and 1104.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the time for thatching these departmental schools?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A little before the monsoon, I believe.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In what months, please?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): During Minam and Medam.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : So a departmental school is allowed to remain unthatched till the end of Medam ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I am speaking from my own experience.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : That is done in regard to our own houses. (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Whether it is a house or a school building it does not matter.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is there any rule as regards the thatching of these schools every year ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : There is no rule.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I know when the report was made that the building was in an unsound condition ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : In April 1930. That is about Minam.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Was it the report of the Head Mistress ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : What the Government got was the report of the Acting Director of Public Instruction.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : A few days after the report was received the building fell down. Is that the way in which schools used by children are allowed to remain and repaired. No departmental schools are allowed to be in such condition.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is not an interpellation to be answered, Mr. Thanu Pillai. That is a censure.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Then I want to get a piece of information.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You may ask.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I want to make a point clear.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You can put in any number of questions without implying a censure.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : In this particular instance it so happened that you got the report about the unsound condition of the building in April and a few days after that the building fell down. I make that statement because it is a matter affecting the lives of poor boys and girls.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The unsound nature of the building was reported to Government by proper authorities before the building fell down. That is all I can say.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : The building itself is very old and no information is available as to when that was constructed and handed over to the department. I wish to know how this statement was made that it was very old ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The building was very old from its appearance. The records do not show when it was handed over to the department.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there any record to show that the building was handed over to the department by the people?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there anything to show that this is a Government building?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They have their own record.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): When it was reported to be in an unsound condition, why was the building allowed to stand as it was?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government wanted to sanction an estimate for repairs. Neither the department nor the Government thought that the building would collapse.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there frequent inspections of these school buildings by any authority?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is the departmental Overseer who inspects these buildings.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it once in a year or once in two years?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say how often he inspects these buildings. Whenever necessary, inspections are made.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there any rule that these schools should be housed only in a safe place?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no need to have any rule to that effect.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there any understanding to that effect?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is only common sense that schools shall be housed in safe buildings.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): My point is, the building could have fallen down when the school children were there. That is a dangerous condition.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The commonsense view is that only safe buildings should be used for schools.

Trivandrum Water Works.

95. **MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): With reference to the Trivandrum Water Works, will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted for 1105;

(b) the amount spent during 1105;

(c) the portion of the amount spent in 1105 under each of the heads (i) materials; (ii) execution of work; and (iii) staff;